

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace drawing sheet 2 containing Figs. 3 and 4, with the attached drawing sheet amending Fig. 3.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 17 are all of the pending claims, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. By this Amendment, claims 18-21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2-4 and 13 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Drawings:

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because they must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Fig. 3 is amended in response to the objection.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C § 112:

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structure cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections.

Claims 2-4 are amended to recite the necessary structural relationships.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-13 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,844,186 to Meriweather (Meriweather). As claims 18-21 are cancelled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 1-13 and 17 is respectfully traversed.

Meriweather fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Meriweather fails to disclose an electromagnetic switching device, comprising ... an additional appliance, connected to the basic appliance, the contact link support and the at least one contact being arranged in the basic appliance, the additional appliance including, an extension, connected to the contact link support in such a way that the extension is positively guided by the contact link support, the extension being mechanically blockable by use of a locking element, connectable to the additional appliance and blockable in the disconnected position of the contact, such that the extension, the contact link support and the contact are locked in the disconnected position, even when the pull-in current is applied to the electromagnetic drive apparatus.

Meriweather relates to an industrial contactor having a mechanical lock-out to prevent accidental turning-line of the contactor (column 1, lines 5-9). In Meriweather, a contactor 10 includes a coil 12 that is energized through current flowing through terminals 14 to create a

magnetic field and pull an armature 16 into a bore 18 in an actuation direction 20 (column 3, lines 45-49). The housing 24 of the contactor 10 includes threaded holes 28 on the side from which a tab 22 extends which may receive machine screws 30 that are used to mount a stationary plate 32 against the housing 24 (column 3, lines 66 - column 4, line 4). A sliding plate 38 is attached to slide along the stationary plate 32 by a means of shouldered rivets 40 passing through a slotted holes 42 in the sliding plate 38 to be received by retaining holes 44 in the stationary plate 32. When the sliding plate 38 is fully in its upward position along an actuation axis 37 a stop 50 prevents movement of the tab 22 in the actuation direction 20 (column 4, lines 26-43).

It is alleged in the Office Action that the housing 24 corresponds to the claimed basic apparatus and that the stationary plate 32 and the sliding plate 38 together correspond to the claimed additional apparatus. It is further alleged that the tab 22 corresponds to the claimed extension. However, the tab (extension) 22 of Meriweather is part of the housing 24 that is alleged to correspond to the basic appliance. In contrast, the rejected claims clearly recite that the extension is included in the additional appliance. Therefore, unlike the rejected claims which recite that the extension is included in the additional appliance, the tab 22 of Meriweather is included in the basic appliance (i.e., the housing 24). Accordingly, Meriweather fails to disclose all of the features recited in the rejected claims.

Further, Meriweather also fails to disclose additional features recited in claims that depend from independent claim 1. For example, Meriweather fails to disclose that the locking element holder has parallel sides and is open on only one side, as recited in dependent claim 4. It is alleged in the Office Action that the eyes 54 of the sliding plate 38 correspond to the locking element holder recited in the rejected claims. However, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 4 of Meriweather, the eyes 54 are open on both sides of the sliding plate.

Meriweather also fails to disclose the additional features recited in dependent claim 6. For example, claim 6 recites that “the additional appliance has an additional switch connectable in a circuit via the “pull-in current.” It is alleged in the Office Action that the switch 70 corresponds to the claimed “additional switch.” However, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 and recited in the accompanying text of Meriweather, the switch 70 is part of the housing 24 and not part of the sliding and stationary plates 32-38 that are alleged to correspond to the additional appliance.

Additionally, Meriweather also fails to disclose that the additional appliance is latched to the basic appliance, as recited in dependent claim 9. Rather, as discussed above, the stationary

plate 32 is screwed to the housing 24 and the sliding plate 38 is attached to slide along the stationary plate 32 by means of shoulder rivets 40. As such, Meriweather fails to disclose additional features of claim 9.

Further, Meriweather also fails to disclose additional features recited in claim 10. Specifically, Meriweather fails to disclose "the additional appliances adjacent to the basic appliance on an appliance side which runs at right angles to the movement of the contact support." Rather, as may be seen in Fig. 1 of Meriweather, the plates 32, 38 run parallel to the movement of direction of the tab 22 and not at right angles, as recited in the rejected claim.

As Meriweather fails to disclose all of the features recited in rejected claims, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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